



## **ECHO Summaries, Week of Dec. 14-17, 2020**

As a reminder, the opinions of the HUB team members and presenters are their own and do not necessarily represent those of UAA, CHD, DHSS, or any ECHO sponsors.

For recordings and notes: [ECHO AK Public Health COVID-19 Response](https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/echo.aspx)

### **Vaccine Media Pop-Up ECHO Overview, Monday, 12/14/20**

**Synopsis:** All discussion during this pop-up ECHO was focused on the vaccine's arrival and plan for distribution:

- To have a vaccine that's so efficacious with this safety profile is the best-case scenario at this time. (Zink)
- Alaska is not getting more vaccine per capita than other places, but the numbers look that way only because Alaska received its entire allocation upfront instead of weekly. The numbers represented also include IHS allocations, which the state doesn't determine how are distributed. (Zink)
- The entire shipment will be received over a three-day period.
- The major anticipated hurdle from this point forward for getting the vaccine out to communities off the road system are logistics and communication. (Zink)
- We don't yet know January's allocation amount but will report it as soon as it's available from the federal system. (Bobo)

**Links:**

[Web Updates Site](#)

### **Vaccine Media Pop-Up ECHO Overview, Wednesday, 12/16/20**

**Synopsis:** This pop-up ECHO was scheduled to address the severe adverse reaction that took place last night at Bartlett Regional Hospital. It included local and national media and addressed:

- A healthcare worker received the vaccine and within 10 minutes was showing a severe reaction, so was transferred to the emergency room. After increased shortness of breath and elevated heart rate following observation and treatment, she was moved to the ICU for observation. (Jones)
- Determined that this was anaphylactic shock. (Jones)
- The monitoring system in place worked correctly. (Zink)
- The vaccine is recommended to be given in areas where a patient can be treated for anaphylactic shock because of the few cases where this can take place. (Butler)
- There are no planned changes to the schedule due to this incident.
- The recommended observation time following the vaccine is 15 minutes, but if they've had an allergic reaction in the past it should be 30 minutes. (Butler)

#### Links:

[V Safe Information](#)

### Science ECHO Overview, Wednesday, 12/16/20

**Synopsis:** This week's science ECHO focused heavily on vaccine distribution and current number of cases in the state. Important things highlighted during the Q&A were:

- Even after you receive the vaccine, you can still get infected because Patients are getting scheduled for both doses and given reminders of when their second doses are. (Zink)
- People will not need to take an antibody test before taking the vaccine. (Zink)
- Although case numbers are beginning to flatten in Alaska, vaccines will help reach herd immunity (McLaughlin) and reach longer-lasting immunity to the virus. (Zink)
- Those that currently have the virus should not receive the vaccine, as they already have some degree of immunity following that infection. (Zink)
- Ingredients and components of the vaccine can be found on the FDA information sheet. (Ohlsen)
- The estimated amount of time of immunity following infection to COVID-19 is three months. (Zink)
- The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for ages 16 and older. (McLaughlin)
- Studies show that vaccines are at their full efficacy level 1-2 weeks following the second dose. (Ohlsen)
- The vaccine is safe for dialysis patients. (Zink)

## Media ECHO Overview, Thursday, 12/17/20

**Synopsis:** Today's Media ECHO questions focused heavily on vaccine distribution and allocation. The panel was able to clarify a few important points:

- With the upcoming use of the Moderna vaccine, it's anticipated that Phase 1A's tier 1-3 will be able to be completed, moving to the next phase in January. (Walker-Linderman)
- It appears that the last plea for Alaskans to hunker down and limit their reactions worked, as there is no longer a lag on testing turnaround. (Castrado)
- There were no commonalities between the two adverse reactions, other than them both receiving the vaccine. (Zink)
- We expect that as more healthcare workers get vaccinated, more staffed beds will become available to assist with hospital capacity. (Zink)
- At this time, there has been no announcement of any government officials' place in the allocation list. Everyone is in line. (Zink)

### Links:

[Public Comment Link](#)

## Vaccine ECHO Overview, Thursday, 12/17/20

**Synopsis:** The Vaccine ECHO today focused heavily on the timeline of the distribution, allocation and continued studies on the vaccines. Key points made were:

- The state is working on developing a process for screening tier three and beyond individuals to prove eligibility for that phase. With the first two phases, this wasn't necessary. (LeClaire)
- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are similar and showing similar reactions and hypersensitivity. Because of this, patients that don't react well to the Pfizer vaccine will not be recommended for the Moderna vaccine as an alternative. (Ohlsen)
- What vaccine goes to what locations in Alaska is made mostly on logistics of each area. (Pistotnik)
- There is no limitation of what activities you can do between doses, but it's important to maintain precautionary measures (Walker-Linderman) and not assume you're protected after the first dose. (Ohlsen)
- People with autoimmune disorders can receive the vaccine.
- There is not any latex in the vaccine. (Ohlsen)

**Links:**

[Post-Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel](#)

[Allocation Input Opportunity](#)

[Share Your Vaccine Experience](#)

[DHSS Vaccine Info for Community Partners](#)

[CDC Anaphylaxis Link](#)